



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
ST. ANNE'S
155 NORTH OCCIDENTAL BLVD., FOUNDATION
CONFERENCE ROOM
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90010
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, April 22, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-1977)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang and Commissioner Daphne Ng

Call to Order. (13-1545)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introduction of April 22, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-1536)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the April 22, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-1520)

On motion of Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang and Ng absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of April 8, 2013. (13-1298)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang and Ng absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for April 22, 2013 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (13-1546)

Chair Berger had no information to report and announced that Agenda Item 6 would be taken after item 8.

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

5. DCFS Director's report for April 22, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-1832)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **The recommended County Budget was presented to the Board on April 16, 2013. The President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) attended the hearing and spoke of the positive partnership with DCFS specifically on the DCFS Policy Manual rewrite.**

The first review of the newly drafted DCFS Policy Manual took place last week. SEIU provided positive feedback on the content and platform of the Manual.

- **The Title IV-E Waiver (Waiver) request for an additional five years has been sent for Federal consideration and is pending Federal and State negotiations. The Board of Supervisors (Board) will be making its annual trip to Washington D.C. and is scheduled to meet with officials on the Healthcare Reform and the Title IV-E Waiver.**
- **Commercial sex trafficking continues to be of interest at the County, State, and Federal level.**
- **The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Annual Report was released on April 17, 2013.**
- **On April 19, 2013, the Village Family Services hosted a grand opening for their new drop-in center facility located in North Hollywood which serves at-risk Transitional Age Youth (TAY). Supervisor Zev Yaroslavy participated in this grand opening celebration.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission regarding Social

Workers remaining at an office longer than two years, Director Browning responded with the following:

- **Currently, there is a freeze on staff transferring out of DCFS offices that have experienced high turnover. DCFS is negotiating with SEIU in regards to the conditions of staff transferring within DCFS offices. Currently, there is a two-year expected commitment before a social worker can transfer; however, this condition has not been formalized.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL

Agenda Item 6 was taken after Agenda Item 7.

- 6.** Discussion and approval to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing the Commission's support of AB 643 (Stone) which facilitates access to school records of foster youth without court orders and for SB 528 (Yee) which addresses supportive services for pregnant youth in foster care, including ensuring reproductive health care access, child care prioritization, data collection and conferences focusing on the parenting skills for this population.
- Patricia Curry, Commissioner
 - Sandra Rudnick, Commissioner (13-1943)

Chair Berger explained that AB 643 is being brought before the Commission for support by Commissioner Curry. SB 528 is being brought forth for Commission support by Commissioner Rudnick.

Chair Berger continued to explain that the Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken a position supporting the passage of AB 643; however, has not taken a position on Senate Bill 528. The intention of the recommendation before the Commission is to send a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Board, expressing its appreciation for the Board's support of the passage of AB 643, and also to send a letter to the Board urging their support of SB 528.

Chair Berger suggested amending the recommendation to approve both letters in concept, authorize the Commission's Executive Committee to write both letters on behalf of the Commission, and to send both letters to the Board of Supervisors, as soon as ready.

Commissioner Patricia Curry suggested amending the motion to send the AB 643 letter to State Legislature, as the Board has already taken a position on the bill.

Laura Quinonez, County Counsel, recommended that the Commission adhere to the protocol established by the Chief Executive Office, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Policy, when sending the letter.

Barbara Facher, The Alliance for Children's Rights, briefly explained the following in regards to SB 528:

The four provisions of SB 528 are the following:

- 1. To gather data on the numbers of parenting teens. Currently there is no data on parenting teens.**
- 2. To address pregnancy prevention by ensuring that sexual development and reproductive health information services are made available.**
- 3. To address childcare needs for parenting teens in foster care whose children are not detained by the child welfare system.**
- 4. Expansion of the Parenting and Pregnant Teen Conferences statewide. In Los Angeles County, policy requires that any teen that is pregnant or parenting be offered a Conference.**

SB 528 will be heard in the Judiciary Committee on April 23, 2013.

After discussion, at the suggestion of Chair Geneva Berger and Commissioner Patricia Curry, and on motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang, Ng and Olivas being absent), the Commission took the following actions:

- 1) Approved a letter in concept supporting the passage of AB 643 (Stone); and**
- 2) Authorized the Commission's Executive Committee to write the letter on behalf of the Commission, and to send the letter in compliance with protocol established by the Chief Executive Office, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Policy.**

At the suggestion of Chair Geneva Berger, and on motion of Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, seconded by Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, unanimously carried (Commissioners Kang, Ng and Olivas being absent), the Commission took the following actions:

- 1) Approved a letter in concept to the Board, urging the Board's support of SB 528 (Yee); and**

- 2) **Authorized the Commission's Executive Committee to write letter on behalf of the Commission, and to send letter to the Board of Supervisors as soon as ready.**

IV. PRESENTATION

7. Welcome Remarks:

- Tony Walker, MA President & CEO, St. Anne's (13-1547)

Mr. Walker welcomed the Commission and Kim Belshé and provided the following information on St. Anne's:

First 5 LA was the largest funding source for St. Anne's permanent affordable housing facility for youth emancipating out of the foster care system. The facility will include childcare for infants, toddlers and preschool age children. A Community of Friends (ACOF), a nonprofit affordable housing developer is also a partner on this project.

8. Presentation by First 5 LA

- Kim Belshé, Executive Director (13-1552)

Ms. Belshé expressed appreciation to the Commission and St. Anne's for bringing together this meeting and acknowledged Commissioner Curry for her participation and dedication on First 5 LA Commission. Additionally, she expressed that working with the DCFS team has been a positive experience.

Ms. Belshé outlined the following topics she would be discussing and reported as follows:

- **Background and experience**
- **First 5 LA processes underway in the context of leadership in First 5 LA**
- **Issues First 5 LA is faced with and opportunities for partnership in advancing**

Ms. Belshé's Background and Experience

Prior to joining First 5 LA, Ms. Belshé was senior policy advisor of Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and served as secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency throughout Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's tenure. She held a number of leadership positions in state government, including Director of the Department of Health Services.

The majority of Ms. Belshé's career has been fundamentally and exclusively rounded in the commitment to California and public service, with focus on at-risk and underserved populations.

First 5 LA is primarily in the business of building strong children and does so by supporting parents, working with communities, and advocating for policy change that improves the health and safety and school readiness of children. First 5 LA partners with those who share similar goals for young children. Ms. Belshé has introduced four principles in the organization; these principles are referred to as the Four P's (Parents, Place, Policy and Partnership). More recently, a fifth P defined as Potential has been added. Under First 5 LA's this new leadership, the organization is exploring the potential for new opportunities.

First 5 LA Processes Underway

Exploratory work is being conducted by First 5 LA which involves learning from past experiences to identify what has been working well within the organization and what needs to be built upon as well as examining areas for improvement. Additionally, exploration relating to money is being conducted. Historically, First 5 LA has been broadly looked to as a resource for funding of services and activities due to always having funding available. Currently, First 5 LA is looking to the future from a long-term perspective in terms of financial projections. A five year financial snapshot was presented to the Board of Supervisors in January 2013. This financial report indicated that the majority of the unexpended balance for the next five years is committed through either the previous strategic plan's investments, allocations of countywide initiatives, or has been allocated with the current strategic plan. This financial projection provides a clear picture and underscores the need to consider fiscal constraints in shaping decisions that are presently being made, including the need to develop a reserve policy. Many of First 5 organizations throughout the State have reserve policies in place. For the past five years, First 5 LA has been expending well over its anticipated annual tobacco revenue source primarily due to the reduction in tobacco consumption.

As the newly appointed Executive Director of First 5 LA, Ms. Belshé , along with John Wagner, Chief Operating Officer, deemed it an opportune time for the exploration concept referred to as L3 (Listening, Learning and Leading Initiative).

The goals of L3 initiative focuses on implementation of our current 2009 – 2015 Strategic Plan by the following four principles:

1. Building on a common understanding among staff, Commissioners and the community of the status of implementation of the strategic plan.
2. Identifying critical implementation issues.
3. Highlighting opportunities to strengthen internal processes to execute implementation and to identify ways to strengthen external partnerships.
4. Providing the Board a roadmap for the strategic direction, identifying any necessary mid-course adjustments required to sharpen our strategic direction while acknowledging First 5 LA's evolving and declining financial picture.

L3 approach entails three prongs of inquiry:

1. Reviewing strategic plan implementation and progress toward program goals by surveying internal staff and interviewing Commissioners, and current and former grantees.
2. Examining internal processes and procedures relative to strategic goals by examining the type of partner First 5 LA is to contractors and grantees.
3. Considering external context by identifying key social, demographic, and political trends that affect the 0 to 5 population as well as recognizing other collaborative organizations that share common goal.

The goal is to take all of this information and data to identify consistent themes and translate them into action.

Best Start:

Best Start is a placement based initiative implemented in 14 communities. In the summer of 2012, the Board of First 5 LA Commissioners directed staff to further define desired outcomes, refine priorities, and identify measures and tools to track progress associated with Best Start.

In March of 2013, as a result of this direction, Commission and staff began reviewing and assessing Best Start's specific goals, strategies, intermediate outcomes, and resource requirements. These assessments involved clearly defining the following:

- The Roles of First 5 LA and community partners as well as the relationship between the long-term aspiring goals; and
- The strategies First 5 LA intends to support with its resources and intermediate outcomes that can measure progress being made.

L3 and Best Start Inquiry:

- What is First 5 LA's role as an organization and what other roles should we play?
- What is the impact we aspire to have and how can this be assessed?
- In terms of public policy, what is the relationship between the programs and services First 5 LA supports and the broader goals?
- Where are opportunities to do more work in prevention?
- What are the opportunities with partnerships?

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Belshé responded with the following:

- First 5 LA is currently funding 64 separate initiatives and examining how partnerships are defined and examining the impact to those served.
- In terms of data, research and evaluation is an important piece. First 5 LA aspires to be an evidence-based organization. Included on the First 5 LA website is a dashboard that provides a snapshot of where funding is allocated. Additionally, as part of the L3 initiative, the environment is being examined as well as the tracking of data in Los Angeles. First 5 LA has partnered with the Los Angeles County Children's Data Network project which provides a mechanism for a rapid research response.
- First 5 LA's role has been consistent in acknowledging the diversity of communities. The extent to which the Best Start communities are diversified is also being evaluated. As an organization, it is critical that the diversity of needs, priorities and capacity within the community be considered in strategic planning and funding.
- In terms of opportunities for partnering with Department of Mental Health (DMH) on prevention efforts, there have been initial discussions with Director of Mental Health, Marvin Southard, on some of the prevention-oriented work DMH is looking to support. Additionally, work has been done with Department of Public Health (DPH) on the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Programs. A conversation specific to Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) resources has not as yet taken place.
- First 5 LA is exclusively funded with Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues. The funding has been declining with an annual cliff of approximately three to five percent. Revenues in the current year are

approximately \$80 to \$85 million. It is critical for First 5 LA to be purposeful in how resources are spent. Policy will be instrumental for First 5 LA to leverage resources with a farther reach.

- Discussions on the challenge of sustainability have taken place. Historically, First 5 LA has had the resources to continue funding for programs slated to end. However, long-term financial projections require that certain decisions be made in the present day. A framework for decision making that looks at evidence and research when evaluating program alignment with the strategic plan and future direction is underway. First 5 LA Board of Commissioners recently voted to support using this decision-making framework when determining whether funding will continue for programs or services.
- In terms of childcare, First 5 LA makes a significant investment through Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) with over ten thousand pre-school spots a year. To sustain the work of LAUP will require public funding. First 5 LA does not have the capacity to supplement state resources that have been withdrawn in recent years.
- First 5's throughout California have invested significantly in early learning programs. Opportunities exist for First 5 to bring evidence and data to policy discussions on early childhood education.
- In terms of programs for pregnant and parenting teens, Best Start communities have the Welcome, Baby! Program, which works in partnership with participating hospitals. In these hospitals, all pregnant women are voluntarily screened and those with certain risk indicators are provided the opportunity to participate in this home visitation program. The Department of Public Health has a program that targets pregnant and parenting teens specifically.
- In terms of solidifying First 5 LA's current and future role, we are gaining feedback through surveys conducted internally and externally as well as working with a public affairs firm on branding. Additionally, there is a comments section on the website that users of the website are able to provide feedback.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-1548)

There were none.

Announcements

10. Announcements for the meeting of April 22, 2013. (13-1549)

There were none.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-1550)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment of the meeting of April 22, 2013. (13-1551)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.